

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 /130 W
-----070629Z 100028 /20

R 070240Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6874

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0072

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EEWT, SN

SUBJECT: LOS: TRI-STATE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON MALACCA STRAITS

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 7474, (B) JAKARTA 16733, (C) SINGAPORE 5829

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. DURING JANUARY 6 CONVERSATION WITH
EMBOFF, MFA POLITICAL DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICA
AND EUROPE, GEOFFREY YU, IN BRIEF REFERENCE TO SUBJECT, SAID
THAT GOS EXPECTED "NO CHANGES" IN AGREEMENT ON MALACCA STRAITS
WHEN IT EVENTUALLY IS CONFIRMED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. WHEN PRESSED
TO EXPLAIN INDETERMINATE TIMING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING,
YU SAID THAT THIS ATTACHED TO LANGUAGE IN AGREEMENT CONCERNING
SOLICITATION OF IMCO'S VIEWS. YU INDICATED THAT GOS WAS
NOT HAPPY WITH WORDING IN AGREEMENT THAT IMCO VIEWS WOULD BE
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SOLICITED "AS FAR AS THIS IS PRACTICABLE". THIS LANGUAGE
HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO EMBASSY EARLIER (SEE PARA 4, REF C) BUT
WITHOUT INDICATION THAT THIS EXACT WORDING HAD BEEN INCORPORATED
IN AGREEMENT. YU INDICATED THAT GOS HOPED TO OBTAIN LANGUAGE
SOMEWHAT "MORE SATISFYING" IN IMCO CONTEXT BEFORE FOREIGN MINIS-
TERS MEET.

END CONFIDENTIAL.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. A LENGTHY ARTICLE ON THE "STRAITS ACCORD" APPEARED IN JANUARY 5 NEW NATION (NN). DRAWING ON A NUMBER OF MORE OR LESS ANONYMOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING "ASEAN OFFICIALS" ARTICLE REPORTS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AGREEMENT WHICH IN PART CONFIRM, IN PART SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

A. MOST IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH WAS SAID TO BE DECISION ON AN UNDERWATER KEEL CLEARANCE (UKC). LIMIT OF 3.5 METERS. THIS LIMIT WILL APPLY TO STRAITS OF MALACCA AS WELL AS STRAITS OF SINGAPORE.

B. VESSELS HAVING A DRAUGHT IN EXCESS OF 15 METERS WILL BE CONSIDERED DEEP DRAUGHT VESSELS. ON SOURCE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING SUCH VESSELS "MAY HAVE TO BE CONFINED TO DEEP WATER ROUTES. THIS MEANS ALTERNATIVE ROUTES".

C. NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WILL BE INSTALLED AT A MINIMUM OF THREE CRITICAL POINTS: IN THE HORSBURG LIGHTHOUSE AREA, IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF SINGAPORE, AND ALSO ADJACENT TO PORT KLANG.

D. A PILOTAGE SCHEME IS TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE LITTORAL STATES, PAYMENT FOR WHICH IS TO BE REASONABLE.

E. DEEP DRAUGHT VESSELS SHOULD NAVIGATE AT NOT MORE THAN 12 KNOTS DURING PASSAGE OF CRITICAL AREAS OF BOTH STRAITS.

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F. FINALLY, IT REPORTEDLY WAS AGREED THAT THE THREE LITTORAL STATES SHOULD FORMULATE A JOINT POLICY FOR COMBATTING MARINE POLLUTION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: AS WE SUSPECTED (REF C), THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE COMPLETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STRAITS STATES. NOW IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE JUST HOW LONG THE GOS WILL HOLD OUT FOR BETTER LANGUAGE ON SUBMISSION OF THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME TO IMCO. IN THE MEANTIME, WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT A FAIR AMOUNT OF INFORMATION ON KEY ASPECTS OF THE SCHEME ARE FINDING THEIR WAY INTO THE LOCAL PRESS. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOS, WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY PROVIDED INFORMATION ON WHICH NEWSPAPER REPORTS BASED, HOPES THEREBY TO GAUGE THE REACTION OF MARITIME STATES TO PROVISIONS OF THE STRAITS ACCORD. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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